



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Rod R. Blagjevich, Governor

July 18, 2003

Mr. Mark Walker
Abonmarche Group
95 West Main Street
P.O. Box 1088
Benton Harbor, MI 49023

Subject: Fulton City Marina Renovations

Dear Mr. Walker:

Upon review of the Fulton City Marina Renovation project, the placement of rip rap along the shore of the inner basin and central dock areas will result in an increase of aquatic habitat. The placement of rip rap material will result in added habitat diversity which will directly benefit the fishery and macro invertebrate populations.

Rip rap will provide spawning habitat, escape and resting areas for fish and crustaceans, as well as provide a surface for diverse macro invertebrate development. It also provides an area for an increased crustacean (crayfish) population as a result of the interstitial spaces, or crevices, provided by the rip rap. This in turn may very well show increased populations, in this immediate area, of walleye, sauger, largemouth bass, channel and flathead catfish, since crayfish are a preferred forage item. In addition, many sunfish and minnow species, including young of the year and subadults will occupy this area because of the crevices utilizing them for escape and protection. Large crevices will also provide spawning habitat for channel catfish.

Sincerely,

Scott Stuewe
Illinois Rivers Ecosystems Coordinator

